

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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OBEDIENCE

By D. L. Moody

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."—Hebrews 5:9.

My subject is one that you will not like very well, but I found out a long time ago that the medicine we don't like is the best medicine for us. If there is anything that throws a coldness over a meeting, it is to talk about obedience. You can talk about love and Heaven and other things, and people get so warmed that they shout; but when you talk about obedience, there is a sort of coldness over the meeting.

Like a man I heard of during the time of slavery. He was preaching with great power (he was a slave), and his master heard of it and said, "I understand you are preaching, and they tell me you are preaching with great power."

"Yes," said the slave.

"Well, now," said the master, "I will give you all the time you want, and you prepare a sermon on the commandments and preach on the commandments, and bear down on stealing, for there is a great deal of stealing on the plantation."

The man's countenance fell at once. He said he wouldn't like to do that; there wasn't the warmth in it there was in some things. And I have always noticed when you come right down to such matters, people don't like to be told about them, because it comes a little too near home.

Once I heard about a young minister who took the place of an old pastor, and he began to bear down pretty hard upon the sins of the people. A man came to him afterwards and said, "Look here, young man, if you expect to hold this pulpit you have got to stop that kind of preaching, for the people won't stand it." There are a good many people who are delighted when you talk about the sins of the patriarchs, and the sins of other Bible characters, but when you touch upon the sins of today, that is another thing. They say, "I don't like his style." No, nor his matter either, and perhaps you won't like this subject of obedience.

We are told that without faith it is impossible to please God, and you will find that it is impossible to please God without obedience. Your faith doesn't amount to much without obedience. "And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him; not all them that feel Him,


talk to Him, that say, "Lord, Lord," but them that obey Him. Eternal salvation means eternal safety.

All But the Heart of Man Obeys God

Did you ever notice all but the heart of man obeys God? If you look right through history, you will find that this is true. In the beginning God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. "Let the waters bring forth," and the water brought forth abundantly. And one of the proofs that Jesus Christ is God is that He spoke to nature, and nature obeyed Him. At one time He spoke to the sea, and the sea recognized and obeyed Him. He spoke to the fig tree, and instantly it withered and died. It obeyed literally and at once. He spoke to devils, and the devils fled. He spoke to the grave, and the grave obeyed Him and gave back its dead. But when He speaks to man, man will not obey Him; that is why man is out of

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Prize Winner in Second Annual \$1,600 "Sermons on Vital Public Issues" Contest



JESUS CHRIST

Who is He?

DECEIVED? DECEIVER? or DEITY?

by Rev. Walter Hughes, M.B.E., B.A.

R. R. No. 1, Ilderton, Ontario, Canada

"Whom say ye that I am?"—Matt. 16:15.

Peter's accurate and soul-saving, satisfying answer is found in the next verse when, as spokesman for the others, he replies, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16).

The Apostle Paul's reply to this eternal interrogation can be found in I Corinthians 1:24 when he says:

"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

In other words, Christ the brain and the brawn, the muscle and the mentality of the Almighty. If that be true concerning Christ,

and blessed be God, it is true, we realize what a weak and emasculated being the God of the Unitarian is. They deny and decry the truth of Christ's deity. Their God, then, has no wisdom and no power because Christ is the wisdom and the power of God.

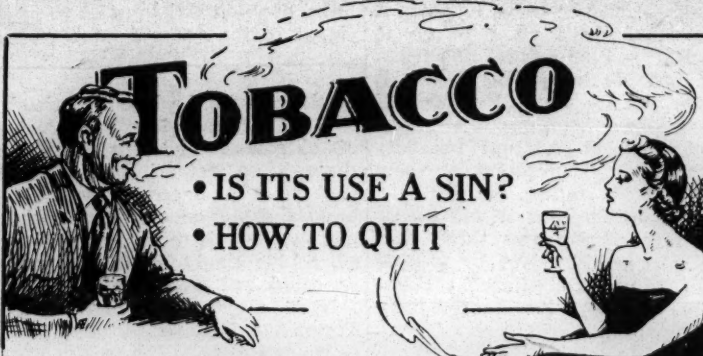
How badly in these atomic and chaotic times, when strong tides are tugging, do we need an anchor for the soul. Only as our anchor of faith is sure—fastened into the immovable Rock of Ages can we be kept from being swept away on the strongly flowing tides of rationalism and unbelief.

In Hebrews 13:8 we read, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Only He abides. Every morning we awaken to a new woe or a new wonder.

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Dr. Walter Hughes



TOBACCO

• IS ITS USE A SIN? • HOW TO QUIT

1. Would Jesus Use It?
2. Tobacco Defiles the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
3. Tobacco Hinders Christian Influence.
4. Tobacco Enslaves the Will.
5. Most Spiritual Christians Believe Use of Tobacco Wrong.
6. Tobacco Money Could Be Better Used to Glorify Christ.
7. Whatsoever Is Not of Faith Is Sin: Doubt Makes It Sin.

By Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor

From Shickshinny, Pennsylvania, years ago, a reader of THE SWORD OF THE LORD wrote:

"Mr. John Rice

"Dear Sir:

"Would you please tell me if it is a sin to use tobacco. If you know it is, please prove it.

"Yours truly,

"_____"

Is Its Use a Sin?

As I prepared to answer this man's honest question, I felt that many would appreciate the same question answered honestly and kindly from the Bible. So here are some scriptural reasons that convince me it is a sin to use tobacco.

1. *Jesus is our Example, and I do not believe that Jesus would use tobacco.* We should follow Jesus' example in being baptized, for He said, "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). So we should live as Jesus lived. Again the Bible says, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Pet. 2:21). Then Jesus said, "As my Father hath sent me,

even so send I you" (John 20:21). He said also, "The works that I do shall he do also" (John 14:12). And again the Bible says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). These Scriptures prove beyond a doubt that every Christian should try to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and live as Jesus would live. If Jesus would not use tobacco, then it is a sin for us to use it. I cannot imagine Jesus smoking cigarettes, having cigarette stain on His fingers or having tobacco juice on His chin and smelling as tobacco users smell. However, do not take my word for it, but read your Bible and pray and see if the Holy Spirit leads you to believe that Jesus would use tobacco. If Jesus would do it then you have a right to use tobacco. If Jesus would not, then you do not have a right to use it. It is a sin for us to do anything that is too dirty for Jesus to do.

2. *I believe it is a sin to use tobacco because it defiles the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit.* The Holy Spirit lives in

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The Apostle Paul and I

By the Editor

This week I received a very sharp letter from a brother who did not like our way of running THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Why did we have subscription prices? Why didn't we just send copies free to everyone who wished them and trust the Lord to provide?


And why doesn't THE SWORD OF THE LORD live by faith without asking anybody to subscribe for themselves or others?

So we patiently explained that the government requires us to maintain a bona fide paid subscription list in order to get second class postage rates by which we save thousands of dollars of the Lord's money each year. And I explained that personally my family and I live by faith without ever asking anybody for money. I never bargained about salary when I was a pastor. I never set any price on my services as an evangelist. I take no salary from THE SWORD OF THE LORD. I write no letters asking for money for myself or my family. We do not even let anybody know our needs, so we have a right to say that we live by faith and that God has wonderfully provided.

But I told our brother that when it comes to the Lord's work of getting out the Gospel, I follow the inspired precept and example of the Apostle Paul. Those who think they are too good to raise money for God's cause are ever so much different from the inspired Apostle Paul. Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians,

"Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (I Cor. 9:14). He said, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I

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THE STORY OF AN ALL-DAY PRAYER MEETING AND THE REVIVAL

When Billy Graham Found Christ

Edward E. Ham

New book of 48 pages plus 4 pages of pictures. Price 50c, Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Ill.



D. L. Moody

Youth's Corner

The Editor Answers
Young People's
Questions

Jealous of girl friend. What is jealousy? How can I overcome it?

I will try to help you overcome your jealousy.

1. Perhaps you and your girl friend are not ready to marry. If not, then I remind you that being together all the time and love-making would tend to make you more jealous. If you know she is the only girl and you are ready to marry soon, then it would be all right for you to go steady and not have dates with other people and expect her not to have dates with other people. But if you are not actually engaged, with the expectation of marrying soon, then you had better pay attention some to other girls and allow her to go some with other boys.

2. "Perfect love casteth out fear" (1 John 4:18). If your girl is promised to you and is really willing to give up everybody else for you, then you should trust her. If she is not pledged to you alone, then you are taking her too seriously. If she is pledged to you and is worthy of you, then you should trust her. Otherwise you would make her and yourself unhappy.

Often jealousy comes from an inferiority complex. You probably feel unsure of yourself, feel inferior to her or feel that she has more people to love her than you have to love you. For the sake of your own self-respect you should overcome this jealousy, even if it means you have to be reconciled to giving up your girl friend.

3. But here is the main thing. Your jealousy is a sign of distrust, even distrust of God. Why don't you say to the Heavenly Father that if He wants this girl to love you with all her heart, He can fix it and keep her true. If He wants her for somebody else, then you should be willing for God's will to be done. In the long run He will show that His way is best. If you learn to trust in the Lord you will not fret, so take more time to wait on God in prayer, to read the Bible and surrender your will to His will. If you can trust God about the matter, you will find that your jealousy disappears.

In love with woman 14 years older than he is. Must age difference spoil an otherwise perfect love?

I believe that for the wife to be fourteen years older than the husband would be quite a handicap. It would not be as much of a handicap for the man to be fourteen years older than the wife because it is expected that the husband should be the stronger of

Obedience

(Continued from page 1)

harmony with God, and it will never be different until men learn to obey God. God wants obedience and He will have it, or else there will be no harmony. In the first epistle of John, we read, "And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." He says in another place that if we keep His sayings we shall never die. The world is like a floating island and as surely as we anchor to it, we will be carried away by it.

Near to God

Now, if you want to get near God, just obey Him; that is the quickest way to get near Him. He takes those into the nearest communion with Himself who obey Him. Once while Jesus talked to the people, behold, His mother and His brethren stood without, desiring to speak unto Him. Then one said unto Him, "Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee." But He answered and said unto him that told Him, "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?" And He stretched His hand toward His disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren! for whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother,

the two and for him to have direction of the home. Then, too, it would usually be a trial for a man to find himself still young and vigorous while his wife is growing old. Would you be content at thirty-six to have a wife who was fifty? Would you be content at thirty-one to have a wife forty-five, already past the child-bearing age? I know one home that has seemed very happy where the woman is nearly ten years older than the husband. However, they have no children.

In any case, Christian people must not ever enter into marriage except with the plain understanding that it is to be a matter of living together until death, happy or not happy.

I think that for the wife to be fourteen years older than the husband would be a serious handicap. However, that is not as serious a handicap as for one to be saved and the other lost, which is clearly forbidden in the Bible.

If a boy gives a girl a present of jewelry should it be returned when they discontinue dating?

If it is expensive jewelry, yes, it should be returned, in my judgment. If it is only costume jewelry, inexpensive, then it would be all right for the girl to keep it, I feel. But if it is the kind of jewelry that a boy gives a girl whom he is to marry, the kind of jewelry that would last for a lifetime, then probably it would save embarrassment both for him and for her if she would return the jewelry when they have broken up.

and sister, and mother." There is no friendship without obedience. The truest sign that we love God is that we obey Him.

"I do love God," a little girl said to her father one day, when he was speaking to her about loving God.

"Perhaps you think you do, dear," said the father.

"But I do."

"Suppose you should come to me and say, 'Papa, I love you,' and then run off and disobey me, could I believe you?"

The child said "No."

"Well," continued the father, "how can I believe that you love God when I see you every day doing things that He forbids?" "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

It isn't a matter of feeling or picking out things we like to do, but it is doing what He commands us to do. Now notice, Adam lost everything by disobedience, and the second Adam gained everything by obedience. "For as by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one, shall many be made righteous."

To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice

Let me call your attention to another portion of scripture. "And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams." God doesn't want sacrifice, if there is disobedience. If we are living in disobedience to God, that is no sacrifice, it is sacrilege. If Adam and Eve had obeyed God, there would have been no need of sacrifices of any kind. Many men want to bring Him a sacrifice, instead of obeying Him. What does your work of charity amount to, if you are not obedient? Do you think that you can gain Heaven by sacrificing your money or your time? "To obey is better than sacrifice."

Suppose a father sends his boy to school and he plays truant. He says, "I don't want to go to school," and he goes off and fishes all day. He knows his father is very fond of trout. He says, "I know I have been disobedient, but I can sell these trout for fifty cents, and I will just take them home to my father. It will be a great sacrifice, but it will please my father." Do you think that will please him? Not by a good deal. He wants obedience, and until his son obeys, his sacrifice is an abomination.

The sacrifices of the wicked are an abomination to God and man. Don't let any man deceive himself and think he is going to please God by giving something to Him when he is living in disobedience.

Men say to me, "You talk against that gambler but he is very good to the poor," and they think he is going to merit Heaven because he is good to the poor. "God will have to remember him." My dear friend, as long as he is living a disobedient life, he cannot do a thing to please God. That boy cannot please his father until he is willing to obey and do the very thing he was told to do. It is much easier to bring a lamb or bullock to the altar than it is to bring ourselves.

Do you know it? I remember hearing a story about an Indian who wanted to come to the Lord. He brought his blanket, but the Lord wouldn't have it. He brought his gun, his dog, his bow and arrow, but the Lord wouldn't have them; but at last he brought himself and the Lord took him. The Lord wanted him. What the Lord wants is not what you have got, but yourself, and you cannot do a thing to please God until you surrender yourself to Him.

Take the two Sauls. They lived about 1,000 years apart. One started out well and ended poorly, and the other started out poorly and ended well. The first Saul got a kingdom and a crown; he had a lovely family (no father ever had a better son than Saul had in Jonathan); he had the friendship of Samuel, the best prophet there was on the face of the

John the Baptist in Prison

Encouraged by Jesus

By Editor John R. Rice

2 Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

6 And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.—Matt. 11:2-6.

Compare this with Luke 7:19-23. Luke adds verse 21, telling of miracles done in the presence of the messengers.

John the Baptist had continued preaching after he baptized Jesus and after the Saviour began His public ministry in Judea (John 3:22-24). Then Jesus left Judea and went into Galilee, evidently because He did not wish to take any of the glory from John's marvelous ministry (John 4:1-3). However, just at that time John was cast into prison and that, too, was a reason for Jesus' leaving Judea and going to Galilee (Matt. 4:12). The ministry of Jesus in Galilee has been studied from Matthew 4:12 on down to this chapter. Meantime, John the Baptist had been imprisoned by Herod because of his bold denunciation of Herod's sins, among others that he had taken his brother's wife (Matt. 14:3-5; Luke 3:19, 20).

In prison John the Baptist became discouraged. This is the hardest temptation Christian workers face after the stress of a great revival campaign is over. There is a natural letdown. See the case of Elijah after the Mount Carmel experience (1 Kings 19:1-18) and God's tender care of him. Abraham, the great man of faith, doubted and went down into Egypt in time of a famine (Gen.

12:10-20). David, after great deliverances from Saul and great promises, became discouraged and doubted and went down to the Philistines (1 Sam. 27:1 and all of chapters 27, 28 and 29.) John the Baptist in prison, with no chance to preach, hearing of secondhand rumors and gossip concerning Jesus and His ministry away in Galilee to the North, doubted whether He was the Son of God which John had already proclaimed Him to be (John 1:15-18, 29-34, 36). Do not blame John. Jesus did not. When he doubted, he did exactly right; he sent to Jesus for evidence and got it.

Let every Christian take comfort in the weaknesses of these great men of God. God still mercifully watched over them, encouraged them, proved Himself to them. Discouragement and doubt are often the products of nerve tension and fatigue. But if you ever doubt, just take your doubts to Jesus and give Him a chance to prove He is all He claims to be, all you ever hoped Him to be. Charles H. Spurgeon has a wonderful lecture on "The Minister's Fainting Fits" or "When a Preacher Is Downcast."

The messengers saw the miracles mentioned in verse 5 and departed and told John. John never was released from prison, but we know he died in faith, reassured and comforted by the Saviour's testimony that He was indeed the promised Saviour, and by the testimony of those who heard and saw the marvelous signs accompanying the Lord's ministry.

Remember that the Lord is always willing to prove Himself to honest people troubled by doubts and His word is, "Come and see" (John 1:39; 1:46; 4:29; 7:17).

(The above comments are taken from the editor's commentary on the Gospel according to Matthew, THE KING OF THE JEWS, 504 big pages. Price \$3.95 at your book dealer's or add 20c postage and handling and order from The Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.)

earth; and yet he lost the friendship of Samuel, lost his crown, his kingdom and his life, all through an act of disobedience. God took the crown from his brow and put another man in his place. Why? Because he disobeyed. All his kingly dignity and power could not excuse him.

Now take the Saul of the New Testament. When God called him he wasn't disobedient to the heavenly vision, and he was given a heavenly kingdom. One act of obedience, one act of disobedience.

The act of obedience gained all, and the act of disobedience lost everything. And so you will find right through the Scriptures this is taking place constantly. I believe the wretchedness and misery and woe in our American cities today comes from disobedience to God. If they won't obey God as a nation, let us begin individually. Let us make up our minds that we will do it, cost us what it will, and we will have peace and joy.

A Blessing or a Curse

In the book of Deuteronomy, we read, "Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; a blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you this day; and a curse if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known." Isn't that enforced? A man who serves God, isn't the blessing of God resting upon him? There is great reward in keeping God's laws and statutes, but a great curse upon them that disobey God.

A lawyer once gave a client instructions what to do, but the latter did not follow them and lost his case. When he complained to his lawyer, "Well," said he, "you did not do what I told you." Look at the wives and mothers that have gone right against the law of God and married ungodly men and drunkards. See what hells they

are living in today! Just one act of disobedience. They are suffering tortures day by day, dying by inches. The whole country is more or less cursed by this disobedience.

A mother told me up in Minnesota that she had a little child who took a book and threw it out of the window. She told him to go and pick it up.

The little boy said, "I won't." She said, "What?"

He said again, "I won't."

She said, "You will. You go and pick up that book."

He said he couldn't do it.

She took him out and she held him right to it. Dinner time came and he hadn't picked up the book. She took him to dinner, and after it was over she took him out again. They sat there until tea-time. When tea-time came she took him in and gave him his supper, and then took him out and kept him there until bed-time. The next morning she went out again and kept him there until dinner time. He found he was in for a life job, and he picked the book up. She said she never had any trouble with the child afterwards. Mothers, if you don't make your boy obey when he is young, he will break your heart.

You say, "Cannot God make a man obey?" I suppose He could but He does not work on those lines. He isn't going to force you against your will. He is going to draw you by the cords of love, but if you are not going to obey Him, then you are going to suffer. God made man neither obedient nor disobedient; and a man must choose for himself. As Dr. Parker says, "A child can treat God with sulkiness and silence. The tiniest knee can stiffen and refuse to bow before Him."

"Strive to enter in at the strait gate." "I will not."

"Look unto me and be ye saved." "I will not."

"Come unto me, and I will give

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AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

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WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD of 4521 Jarboe, Kansas City, Missouri, led a community-wide revival in northeast Waco, Texas, recently with ten Baptist churches co-operating. Brother L. C. Wood, pastor, Concord Baptist Church, writes that there was such a spirit felt that the meeting continued three weeks instead of the scheduled two. Over 700 people attended on several occasions at the tentmeeting. No exact numbers were given on con-

versions or backsliders reclaimed, but the churches all report increased attendance and offerings after the meeting.

Timber Crest Church, a mission of the Waco Baptist Association, was led in a revival by **PASTOR L. C. WOOD** of Concord Baptist Church recently. Music was led by Ted Lanham of Satin Baptist Church. Nine joined the church by letter or statement and six came for baptism during the meeting.

EVANGELIST RALPH M. DAVIDSON, Box 77, Coffeyville, Kansas, closed a meeting at the Prairie Lee Bible Church, Lee's Summit, Missouri, on August 14. Brother Jerry Church, pastor, writes that there were 19 Christians who made definite decisions during the revival, that many public and private apologies were made, and there was a genuine spirit of revival present. A husband and wife who had been separated five times came forward together to accept Christ. The pastor enthusiastically recommends Brother Davidson for his strong leadership and fervent preaching.

EVANGELIST HUGH F. PYLE, 1721 South Gordon Street, S. W., Atlanta 10, Georgia, led the Addyston Baptist Church, Addyston, Ohio, in revival services August 1 through 14. Crowds increased nightly and many decisions were made. There were 47 souls who came professing faith in Christ as Saviour and quite a few who came rededicating their lives to the Lord. One young man was called to preach. A highlight of the revival was the public stand of several dozen young people and boys and girls who surrendered for whatever phase of full-time service the Lord might call them to. D. D. Williams is the able pastor of the church and a record-breaking Sunday School attendance was achieved on the closing Sunday, with 307 present.

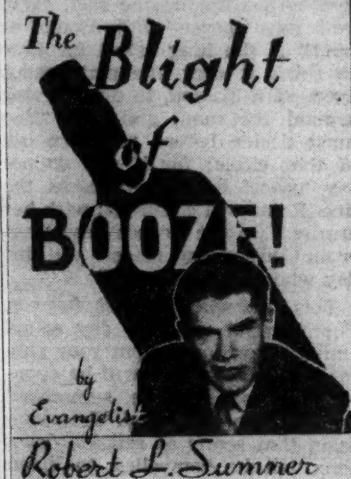
EVANGELIST FREDDIE GAGE of Box 74, B. U. Station, Waco, Texas, led the First Baptist Church of Mineral Wells, Texas, in a recent revival. H. C. Garber, pastor, reports that not since the days of the Mordecai Ham revival in that city has the church been moved more toward God. All revival attendance records were broken during the meeting. There were 55 additions to the church, 25 who came on profession of faith. There were 105 rededications and 40 families pledged publicly to begin family altars, and one man surrendered to the gospel ministry. Brother Garber heartily recommends Evangelist Gage and his song leader, Jimmy Snellen, as a team to any church looking for an "old-time revival."

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST OSCAR WELLS** conducted a revival campaign with the Church of God in Dacatur, Illinois, last June with blessed results. There were 13 conversions and 15 rededications during the brief campaign. Rev. Carl Binkley, an old friend of the Sword's and of Evangelist Wells, is the pastor of this fine church. This was the evangelist's third revival with this pastor, although in various churches.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST ROBERT L. SUMNER** has just conducted a fine revival campaign with the First Fundamental Baptist Church of Lynwood, California. During the campaign there were 19 conversions, 31 rededications, and 41 family altars started. The Rev. Ralph Irvine is pastor of this growing church.

There were a great many wonderful results of this campaign. Members of the church who weren't speaking to one another got right with each other and with God. At least one home was saved from divorce. Catholics, Mormons, and

Don't Buy It Yet!
Get It Free



Here are 24 dynamic pages of facts and arguments against drink and the man who causes others to drink. This book is full of great Bible teaching, concrete examples of alcoholic tragedies. With these facts at hand, an honest reader can come to but one conclusion: drink leads to woe, to sorrow, to death, to Hell.

Evangelist Robert L. Sumner is a mighty Gospel preacher, winner of souls. This message is up-to-date, having been written and published in THE SWORD OF THE LORD, May 13, 1955. It was very popular then; hundreds requested it to be made available in pamphlet form. Here it is, just off the press a few weeks. These 24 large pages will thrill your soul, encourage your faith, and give you atomic ammunition.

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Write Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.

Unsectarianism

By C. H. Spurgeon

Unsectarianism! That is the correct thing nowadays, unsectarianism! Which, being translated means,—it does not signify which is which, whether it is right or wrong; it matters not one atom whether you obey God or obey man, whether you belong to a church which is apostate from the truth, or one that holds the truth. Unsectarianism, my friends, is treason to God and to God's Word. It is only the strong sectarian who can be true; I mean only the man who follows out the divine Word in every jot and tittle, and feels, "I must hold to this truth if I stand alone." I mean not that we are to say, "I cannot love this Christian brother who does not see what I see." Nay, my brethren, I wish to push liberty of conscience further than that, so far as to feel that you have no right to judge your brother about what he sees or does not see, but that you stand solely and wholly on your own feet before God; you

others were saved, including one man who had been drinking the night he made profession. Incidentally, this man's wife was saved two nights later, and his teen-age son was also saved in the campaign. The son, in turn, helped in the winning of three of his friends to Christ.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST OSCAR WELLS** has just conducted a revival campaign with the Round Lake Bible Church of Round Lake, Illinois. The Rev. Robert Vaught, a student at Moody Bible Institute, is pastor of this church.

During the meetings, there were 28 conversions, 13 rededications, and 3 family altars started.

Obedience

(Continued from page 2)

you rest." "I will not."
"Seek ye first the kingdom of God." "I will not."
"Repent." "I will not."
"Turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die?" "I will not."
"Follow me." "I will not."
"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ." "I will not."
"Give me thine heart." "I will not."

"Go work in my vineyard." "I will not."
"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." "I will not."

"Lay up for yourself treasures in heaven." "I will not."

So we might go through the Bible, and we would find that rebellious man refuses to obey His commandments, and follows the devices and desires of his own heart. God made man for His glory, but he joined the Devil and became a rebel.

Now this is the question to be settled. The battle is fought on that one word of the will; the door hangs on that one hinge of the will. Will you obey? That is the question! Will you obey the voice of God and do as He commands you? No man can obey for you any more than he can eat and drink for you. You must eat and drink for yourself, and you must obey God for yourself.

God requires literal, prompt, cheerful obedience. Nothing less will do. If you changed the doctor's prescription only a little, you might turn it into rank poison.

A Sunday School teacher once asked her class, "How is the will of God done in Heaven?" One child answered, "Cheerfully." Another, "By everybody." A third, "All the time." But the best answer was, "It is done without asking any questions."

Disobedience Brings Punishment

Men don't seem to think that there is any thing in disobedience that needs to be punished. They shoot a soldier in the army for disobedience.

"Their's not to reason why,
Their's not to make reply,
Their's but to do or die."

It is said that an officer of engineers once told the Duke of Wellington it was impossible to carry out some orders he had given. "Sir," replied the duke, "I did not ask your opinion. I gave you my orders and I expect them to be obeyed." God never gave a command that we cannot obey. Perhaps we don't know the reason—but God knows it.

Will not the farmer be punished if he disobeys the laws of nature? and does not the same hold as regards spiritual laws? The only way to reap happiness in the life to come is to obey God's commandments in the life that now is.

People say, "Well, don't you think it very unreasonable in God

(Continued on page 4)

have there to exercise your own mind, and it does not matter to you whether you belong to any one section, or whether you be a sect to yourself, as long as you can but call Him Lord and Master, and keep all His Word and all His way. But the giving up of this and that truth, denying one ordinance and compromising another, shirking some doctrines, and dexterously turning the angles of other doctrines, giving up any particular practice which is clearly of God's appointment, and tolerating any other practice of human device with a vindication of its harmlessness, this is nothing but flat treason against the Majesty of Heaven in order to win the approbation of men. The world points its finger at the rigid Puritan, and declaims against him; but the rigid Puritan is the man whom God accepts; nor can he be too rigid in everything in which he believes the divine will is concerned. "How liberal," says

one. Ay; but let a servant be liberal with his own money, not with his master's. I have no right to liberality in principles. Principles and duties are things which I have no more right to touch than I have to take pains to alter the statute law of the realm. Yea, let the canons of law be altered, and Acts of Parliament be burned in the fire, but let the Word of God stand fast forever. If any man preach any other Gospel than that we have received, instead of saying, "No doubt he is an excellent, but a mistaken man," let us say, with Paul, "Let him be accursed!" And until we get back the old spirit of following out the Master's mind in all things, personally, scrupulously, rigidly, our consciences keeping close to the divine mind, we shall scarcely know what true obedience is. The church greatly needeth now to be brought back to her true standing of obedience to her Lord and King.

Dr. Bob Jones SAYS:



I quote from a letter just received: "Dear Dr. Jones: Enclosed find check for \$24 of God's money. May God's blessings be yours in the great work you are doing at Bob Jones University." This letter is from a dear man and his wife who love the Lord and want to have a part in the work that God is doing through Bob Jones University and its contacts.

When we get money that somebody says is God's money, it puts a little lump in our throat. It gives us a strong sense of responsibility. As a matter of fact, all money is God's money. If I have a dollar, I got it from a bank; the bank got it from the mint; the mint got it from the mine; and God put it in the mine. It is a serious thing for Christian people to handle something that belongs to God and not handle it for God. We are asking Christian friends everywhere to pray daily and earnestly that we folks here at Bob Jones University may all handle God's money just as God wants us to handle it. We are doing our best to spend every cent in the way we think God would have us spend it so as to do the most good possible to the most people possible in the shortest time possible. We need money for our expansion program.

We also need additional money for our Student Loan Endowment Fund, and we need more money for missionary work. We have taken on a heavy burden on the foreign field. We must have the help of God through his people to do the job He has called us to do. We have faith in Him, and we have confidence in people who love Him. From my many years of experience, I am sure that the average Christian wants to invest money for God as God would have him invest it. Let me suggest that you pray about the matter of helping Bob Jones University financially; and if the Lord leads you, then let us hear from you. If the Lord does not want you to send any money to Bob Jones University, we do not want you to send it; but we believe that God is speaking to some of your hearts; and we promise you that we will use the money that you send just as carefully and prayerfully as we know how. Please let us hear from you, and don't forget to pray for us. Thank you and God bless you.

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Obedience

(Continued from page 3)

to punish Adam because he transgressed once?" Some years ago a superintendent telegraphed to a man not to turn the bridge over a certain river until a special train passed. He waited and waited and the man stood firm, until finally someone overpersuaded him and he opened the bridge. He thought he would have time to let the boats pass and swing the bridge back before the train came. But he hadn't got it more than opened before he heard the coming of the quick train. He hadn't time to get the bridge back, and there was a tremendous accident and lives were lost. The man went out of his mind and was sent to a madhouse, and his cry for years, until death released him, was: "If I only had! If I only had!" If he only had what? If he had only obeyed, those lives would not have been lost.

In England, not long ago, a switchman just turned the switch at the wrong time, and twenty men were hurled into eternity, and a good many were maimed and hurt for life. He only just disobeyed once.

Simple Obedience

There is a story told about Girard, one of the first millionaires this country ever had. A green Irishman came over to this country, and he had been walking round the streets of Philadelphia for a long time, unable to get anything to do. One day he went into Girard's office and asked him if he couldn't give him something to do to keep soul and body together.

Girard said, "Yes; do you see that pile of bricks down there?"

"Yes."

"Well pile it up at the other end of the yard."

The Irishman went to work. Night came on and he had the work all done, and he went into the office, touched his hat, got his pay, and asked if Girard had any work for him the next morning.

Girard told him he had. The next morning he came along. Girard said, "You go and carry that pile of bricks back to where you found it."

The Irishman went at the work without a word. Night came on, he got his pay and wanted to know if there would be work for him the next morning. Girard kept him marching up and down there for a number of days, until he found he was just the man he wanted. One day he said, "You go down and bid that sugar off." When the auctioneer put the sugar up, here was a green Irishman bidding. The people laughed and made sport of him, and finally it was knocked off to him. The auctioneer said in a gruff tone, "Who is going to pay for this sugar?"

"Girard, sir."

"You Girard's agent?"

Mighty man then! Girard had found a man he could trust; God wants to find a man He can trust to obey Him.

Blessed by Obedience

Do you know every man who was blessed while Christ was on earth, was blessed in the act of obedience? Ten lepers came to Him, and He said, "Go and show yourselves to the priest." They might have said, "What good is that going to do us? It was the priest that sent us away from our families. But they said nothing; and it came to pass, that, as they went, they were healed. Do you want to get rid of the leprosy of sin? Obey God. You say you don't feel like it. Did you always feel like going to school when you were a boy? Supposing a man only went to business when he felt like it; he would fail in a few weeks.

Jesus said to another man, "Go to the Pool of Siloam and wash." and as he washed, he received his sight. He was blessed in the act of obedience.

The prophet said to Naaman, "Go and dip seven times in Jordan," and while he was dipping he

was healed. Simple obedience. You don't need to go to any theological seminary to find out how to obey, need you?

Old Matthew Henry used to say, "If you live by the Gospel precepts, you may live on the Gospel promises." To know the truth and not to obey it is unprofitable. It is said over fifty times of Moses that he did "as the Lord commanded him." That was why Moses had the confidence of God.

Eternal Salvation

If you want eternal salvation you can have it now. The terms are right here. What are they? Obedience.

"This is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ."

"He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God." If you disobey, you shut the only door of hope. You may make a profession of Christianity, you may join the church, you may know the doctrine, but unless you hearken unto God's commandments, it will all be of no avail.

Will you obey? You have got to settle this thing in your mind. Just make up your mind that you are going to obey. Nothing very mysterious about it. You needn't go to any old dusty library to

read up on obedience, need you? If God tells you to repent, then repent. This will be the grandest day you have ever seen if you make up your mind to obey Him. Will you do it?

Reader, decide now. In olden times, when a Roman ambassador came to a king who was not allied to the Empire, he said, "Will you have peace with Rome or not?" If the king asked for time to think it over, the ambassador used, with his rod, to draw a ring around the man, and say, "You must decide before you step out of that circle; for if you do not say 'peace' before you cross the line, Rome will crush you with her armies." Do not trespass any longer on God's mercy. Choose you this day whom ye will serve."

This life will not last forever. The trumpet will one day sound and call you forth from your narrow bed. The graves will be opened and you will be summoned forth to meet your God. The proud heart that scoffs at religion down here will be compelled to listen to the judgment sentence of God. The ears that will not obey the sound of the church-going bell will be compelled to obey the sound of the last trumpet. The eyes that behold evil here shall one day gaze upon the spotless throne of God. Do not forever disobey. May God help you to submit without delay your proud will in loving, childlike obedience to Himself.

(From the book, THE WAY OF LIFE, in the Moody Colportage Series, 35c.)

The Apostle Paul and I

(Continued from page 1)

come" (I Cor. 16:1, 2). He sent Titus to Corinth to encourage them to give as liberally as did the churches at Macedonia (II Cor. 7:1-6). So about the Lord's work, we follow the example of the Apostle Paul. People who give liberally, lovingly, sacrificially will surely not object if you follow the plain Bible pattern and ask God's people to support God's work.

We are giving out millions of copies of Christian books and pamphlets in many, many languages, all the way from preachers and ministerial students to unconverted heathen people in foreign countries. We need sacrificial gifts for the Sword Free Literature Fund.

We have recently been appealed to to send free literature including THE SWORD OF THE LORD and about \$5 worth of good books to each of 300 new priests of the Independent Catholic Church in the Philippine Islands and we have agreed to do it. Somebody ought to send us \$2,000 to help reach these open-hearted people, church leaders who have asked for and will read our literature.

We have just sent nearly 400 ministers who worked with the Billy Graham campaign in Scotland THE SWORD OF THE LORD for one year, and my book, *Prayer—Asking and Receiving*, and the clothbound book, *The Soul-Winner's Fire* to each of them. Most

of these men cannot send the money for a subscription. We are getting the warmest possible letters of thanks telling of great blessings.

Hundreds of ministerial students of colleges and seminaries of many denominations are asking for this editor's books to settle theological problems and for THE SWORD OF THE LORD which would definitely color their ministries for all the future. We must send THE SWORD OF THE LORD to ministerial students who want it and who will read it.

An urgent request by a missionary in the Philippine Islands for copies of THE SWORD OF THE LORD for national workers, calls from state prisons and from many other sources tug at our heart.

Will you be one to help in this burden? I beg you to pray about it and then, if you can, send a sacrificial offering to our Minister and Missionary Subscription Fund. I have personally promised to try to give 500 subscriptions by the first of January. Some I will have to pay for myself and some will pay for their own. Will you help by sending a check at once, or taking a quota of 25 or more subscriptions?

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Jesus Christ -- Who Is He?

(Continued from page 1)

How true it is concerning this life which we live and this world in which we move that 'we know not what an hour may bring forth.' We are living in a world of never ceasing flux. Nothing material remains the same. The law of disintegration and death is written in large letters across the broad brow of the world. We see this fact in personal, domestic, civic, national, and international affairs.

In comparatively recent years thrones have toppled and kings have crumbled and fallen to the dust of death or fled into exile. In recent times the map of Europe has been cut into little pieces and rearranged like a jigsaw puzzle. Men's thoughts and men's systems find no place of rest. We find the law of decay in our personal lives. We change in face and form. This is true also in the family sphere. There are empty places at the table and unworn and unwanted garments hanging in the closet. Loved ones have been snatched from us by the horrid and haunting hand of death.

How refreshing, then, and comforting and stabilizing to speak of one who forever abides. Let us gaze upon the glory of the unchanging and unchangeable Christ. Time writes no wrinkles on His holy brow. The hymn writer has it,

Change and decay in all around I see;

Oh, Thou who changest not, Abide with me.

This question, then, of the Master should be pondered well. "Whom say ye that I am?" There is no other question in all the realm of human thought to be compared with this.

A poet has said:

*If Christ were a man
And only a man, I say,
That of all mankind
I would cleave to Him;
And to Him I would cleave away.*

I am sure I wouldn't. If Christ were only a man, He is a dead man. No dead man could save my soul or change my life.

Countless questions might be asked of you and me and the answers that we might offer would make no difference in us or others, either in this life or that which is to come. But not so with this one. Eternal issues hang upon our answer. This is no query about the church, the curate or the choir, but about the Christ. We cannot evade or avoid this question. He is

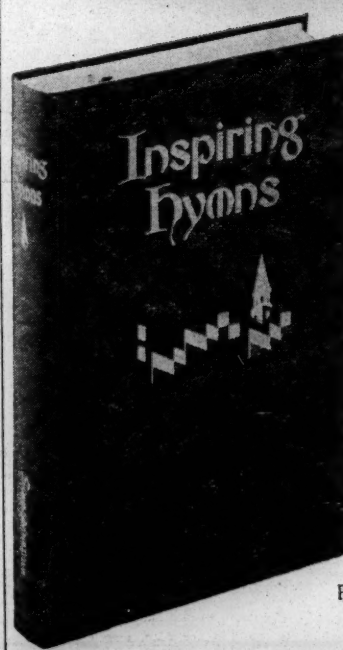
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Jesus Christ -- Who Is He?

(Continued from page 4)

the inevitable Christ and He comes to you and me and demands our verdict.

"You cannot think right in the rest, Unless you think rightly of Him."

On this foundation rock the whole structure of sound Christianity rests. If the doctrine of the Deity of Jesus Christ can be disproved and discredited, then Christianity topples like an arch without a keystone.

Many ardently admire Christ, but that is not enough. Many prominent unbelievers have endeavored to outdo each other in speaking well of Him. Some of them have well-nigh exhausted human vocabulary in order to present verbal bouquets.

Pilate called Christ, "The Man without a fault."

Napoleon said of Him, "The Emperor of love."

Renan said of the Saviour, "He was the greatest among the sons of men."

They applauded Him but they didn't love Him and never worshiped Him. We must not be deceived by men's pious platitudes. Even while they praise Him, they plunder His Person. They rob Him of His Deity. We must make our choice between the Christ of the Scriptures and the Christ of the critics.

We should accept Him as the Eternal Son of God

Because of His Own Claims in That Connection

Any who carefully study the question soon realize that the Master made gigantic claims. Again and again He said that He was the Son of God with power in the sense that no other ever was or ever could be. Christ undoubtedly made colossal claims and He measured up to them. Men with modern phraseology would say, "He delivered the goods."

When Thomas stood in the upper room and cried in Christ's presence, "My Lord and my God," Christ didn't rebuke him, Christ commended him.

Without a semblance of apology to the Jews, He placed Himself above everything which they deemed precious and sacred. He put Himself above the prophets, above Moses, above the Sabbath. He stands surrounded by His foes and makes one of His mightiest statements, "Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me" (John 5:46). Two thousand years before He stepped upon the stage of human history at Bethlehem, Moses took his pen in hand and wrote accurately of Christ.

In John 14:9 we read, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

When He was hauled before the high priest just before the crucifixion, Caiaphas said to Him, "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God." Christ calmly replies,

"Thou hast said" (Matt. 26:63, 64).

Christ certainly made colossal claims. He said that He was the water of life, the way of life. He said He could lift men's burdens and give them bread. He claimed to be the Shepherd Saviour. If He wasn't all this, then He was either deceived or a deceiver. If He was deceived, then He was ignorant; and if He was a deceiver, then He must have been an impostor.

Is it not strange that an ignorant impostor who lived about two thousand years ago and died upon a malefactor's cross should have such strange power, even in this age, to mold and master the lives of men and women? Certainly Peter was right when in answer to Christ's question, he replied, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Richard Fuller was right when, in the midst of a sermon, he suddenly stopped and looked up to Heaven for a moment and solemnly said: "O Saviour! forgive me if in order to expose the impiety which seeks to tarnish Thy name I stain my lips with language which my soul abhors." Then

looking at the congregation he said, "If Jesus Christ was only mortal, He was not the purest and the best, but He was the worst of men; He was a systematic blasphemer; and as God has made blasphemy a capital crime, the Jews did right to condemn and crucify Him. Richard Fuller was right."

He was Lord of life or lord of liars. He was deity or deceiver. He was Master or maniac. We must crown or crush Him. We should give Him the lie or give Him our life. We ought to serve Him or spurn Him. There is no middle ground, no neutrality, no other alternative. We must crown Him King or spurn Him altogether. Blessed be God, many of us can testify and say of Him,

*Jesus wondrous Saviour,
Christ, of kings THE KING;
Angels fall before Thee,
Prostrate, worshipping;
Fairest they confess Thee,
In the heavens above,
We would sing Thee fairest,
Here in hymns of love.*

We must also make mention of

His Miraculous Ministry and Messages While Here Among Men

He gave "SIGNS" of His sovereignty. The Gospel records of Christ's miraculous ministry cannot be discredited. Christ not only made colossal claims but by mighty deed He proved His claims to the hilt. Concerning His works He said, "They testify of me."

*He walked with the beggar along the road,
He kissed the bondsman stung by the goad,
He bore half of the porters' load,
Jesus, my Saviour.*

With the blest and broken lunch of a little lad He fed the multitude. He stood in the midst of tossing Galilee and said, "Peace, be still," and there was "a great calm." He healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead.

The hymn writer has set forth this side of the picture of Christ's pilgrimage among the people in these words:

*What means this eager, anxious throng,
Which moves with busy haste along—
These wondrous gatherings day by day,
What means this strange commotion, pray?
In accents hushed the throngs reply,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."*

*Who is this Jesus? Why should He
The city move so mightily?
A passing stranger, has He skill
To move the multitude at will?
Again the stirring tones reply,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."*

*Jesus! 'tis He who once below
Man's pathway trod mid pain and woe;
And burdened ones, where'er He came,
Brought out their sick, and deaf, and lame,
The blind rejoiced to hear the cry,
"Jesus of Nazareth passeth by."*

And What of His Words?

His language speaks loudly of His Lordship. Anticipating Christ we read in the Psalms, "Grace is poured into thy lips" (Ps. 45:2). "His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely" (Song of Sol. 5:16). "And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth" (Luke 4:22). Even His enemies said, "Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46). He spoke, and still speaks, words of forgiveness, rest, and peace. It is more profitable to sit for five minutes at the Master's feet and listen while He speaks, than to sit for a life time at the feet of the wisest of the earth.

What Shall We Say of the Perfect Pattern of His Life?

He walked the pilgrim path with never a stumble. He walked the world unsullied. It is said of Him prophetically, "Thou art fairer than the children of men" (Ps. 45:2). Yea, he is ALTOGETHER

LOVELY" (Song of Sol. 5:16). In every detail of His life He was perfect.

Sometimes children are bewitchingly exquisite, and sometimes awful. Even a man's grandchildren aren't ALTOGETHER lovely. The tailor will testify that all men are a little lopsided. All have one shoulder a little lower than the other. All are off balance.

Some men are so nice that they can't be truthful. Others are so truthful that they seem to find it difficult to be nice. "He is altogether lovely."

Every man has his good points. Christ has them all. He cannot be compared with the best of men, but only contrasted. When His enemies challenged His words or works, He never recanted, modified, or retracted.

He forgave the sins of others, but had none of His own to confess or to be forgiven. Once He said, "I do always those things which please him" (John 8:29). Even after the microscopic examination of the ages, His critics can find no flaw in Him. In Him were no defects and no excesses. It is more easy to add a tint of beauty to the petal of a rose or a touch of splendor to the radiant beams of the rising sun, than to add any luster to our Lord.

"All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad."—Ps. 45:8.

*Jesus! all perfections
Rise and end in Thee;
Brightness of God's glory,
Thou eternally,
Favored beyond measure
They Thy face who see;
May we, gracious Saviour,
Share this ecstasy.*

What of the Saviour's Central Place in the Story of the Centuries?

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His first miracle in His earthly ministry was the turning of water into wine, but the writer of this message, even after this late hour in the world's history, has seen Christ change whisky into babies' (Continued on page 6)

I wonder . . .

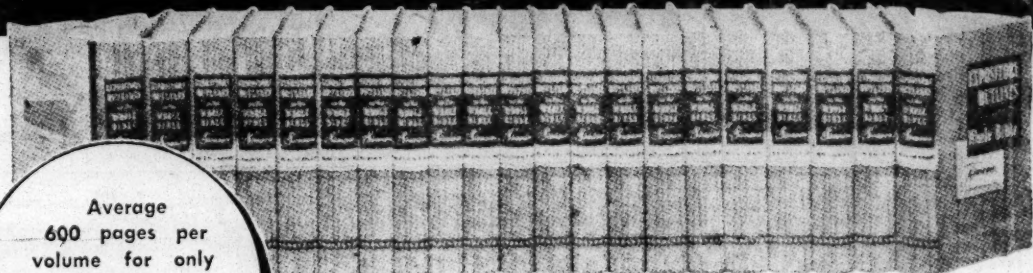


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Tobacco

(Continued from page 1)

the body of every Christian. The Bible says, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). That means the Holy Spirit. Again, in I Corinthians 3:16, 17, the Scripture says: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." This body then, if you are saved, is the temple of the Holy Spirit of God. God will destroy any man who destroys His temple, the Christian's body. If you are saved, a child of God, then your body belongs to the Spirit and He dwells there. If you sin against Him by defiling this body, then you will shorten your life and will not only destroy the body but are likely to destroy your influence and happiness.

Paul says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your BODIES a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). I believe if one sincerely offers his body altogether for the service of Christ, he will see that the use of tobacco hinders that service

and offends the Holy Spirit. First Corinthians 6:19, 20 says, "What? know ye not that YOUR BODY is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your BODY, and in your spirit, which are God's." Does tobacco smoke coming out of your nostrils glorify God in your body? Does the smell of tobacco on your body offer a good testimony for Jesus Christ? We well know that tobacco stunts the mind of the growing boy and girl. It hinders the athlete. It sometimes makes mothers unable to nurse their babies. Many physicians believe that pipe smoking sometimes causes cancer of the tongue, mouth or throat. In some cases, tobacco affects the lungs, causes hardening of the arteries and affects digestion, according to the best physicians. In my ministry I have known literally dozens of men to quit tobacco because they felt it would please God. In practically every case they immediately began to gain weight, digestion was better, and general health and disposition were better. I say, this has been proved true in dozens of cases that I know about personally. Anything that so harms the body as tobacco does must grieve the Holy Spirit who

makes that body His temple and commands that we do not defile the body. Since your body belongs to God and you are commanded to glorify God in your body as well as your spirit, and since the blessed Holy Spirit abides there if you are a Christian, I believe it is a sin to use tobacco.

3. I believe that the use of tobacco is a sin because it hinders a Christian's influence. If a man has no conscientious scruples of his own about the use of tobacco, then since he is a Christian, he should consider the conscientious scruples of other people for whom Christ died. In I Corinthians 8:9-13 Paul, the inspired apostle of God, says:

"But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hath knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols? And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend."

Here then is a Bible principle clearly stated. If your example leads others to do what they think

Jesus Christ -- Who Is He?

(Continued from page 5)

boots and bonnets. He makes all things new.

Some years past we stood in the Water Street Mission in New York City. On the wall we saw the picture of Jerry McAuley. Before he met Christ, he was a drunken river thief, a bum. Christ made him a new creation. The pastor of a great New York Church in Jerry's day said that McAuley had more power for God than all the preachers in New York.

There are multitudes even in this day of doubt and drift to whom Jesus is "the altogether lovely one and the fairest among ten thousand."

And those who find Thee find a bliss,

Nor tongue, nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus, what it is
None but His loved ones know.

What He has done for others HE CAN DO FOR YOU. What do YOU think of Him? What will YOU do with Him? You must crown or crush Him. It is either accept or reject. Christ calmly

says, "He that is not for me is against me." There can be no neutrality. If you refuse and reject Him, you are guilty of rejecting the eternal Son of the living God. This is the most heinous of transgressions. It is utter folly. My personal testimony to Him is found in a familiar verse:

O could I speak the matchless worth,
O could I sound the glories forth,
Which in my Saviour shine;
I'd soar and touch the heavenly strings,
And vie with Gabriel while he sings,
In notes almost divine.

Let Him be all that to you. What think ye of Christ? There is no evading the issue. Christ meets us all in the midst of life's busy world and wants our verdict. Try Him, trust Him, look to Him, love Him.

"There is life for a look
At the crucified One;
There is life at this moment
for THEE."

—THE END—

is wrong, or if you cause them to be discouraged and lose confidence in your Christianity, then it is a sin. Verse 9 shows that your liberty may become a "stumbling-block to them that are weak," and that would be a sin. Verse 12 says that "when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ." I know a good many preachers who use tobacco. In every case where it is known it is a stumbling block. Many mothers say, "I do not want my boy to follow after such a preacher." Some Christians say, "If it is all right for Brother So-and-So, it is all right for me." And lost sinners say, "What is the use of being a Christian if a preacher smokes just as lost sinners do?"

I know it would be harmful for my six daughters to use tobacco. But if I use tobacco, then my example would teach them that there is no harm in it. So many girls and women do smoke these days that it is very likely some of mine would if they saw their daddy smoking. My wife now nurses our baby girl two months old. (Written November, 1937.) I know it would be harmful to the health of mother and child if my wife used tobacco. But if it is all right for me, it is all right for them. I am accountable for those about me. I believe it is a sin for a Christian to use his influence in a way that will cause others to sin.

There is nothing in the Bible that justifies a double standard of morals. What is good for a wife is good for her husband morally. If a woman should keep herself clean, then so should a man. If little children would be harmed by tobacco, then so would adults. I have heard preachers denounce women for smoking, but the same preachers thought there was no harm in men smoking. A double standard is not of God but is a part of this present wicked world.

Christian, you are accountable for your influence, and if you sin against the brethren and wound their weak consciences, then you sin against Christ. If using tobacco has a bad influence on others, then it is a sin. If it causes others to use tobacco, when they should not, it is a sin. If it wounds and offends the consciences of others who think you do wrong, and so discourages them and causes them to lose confidence in you, then that is a sin.

4. I believe the use of tobacco is a sin because it enslaves the will and puts one in a yoke of bondage to the lust of the flesh. One of the ways you can know sin is by the way it enslaves. The use of tobacco grows as a habit until one is not free to leave it alone. The thirst for alcoholic liquor grows until the habit of drink is most difficult to break. The use of morphine, heroin or other narcotics is the same way. The habit becomes so fastened on one that it enslaves the will, and a poor victim is often unable to break the habit without special help from God. Gambling grows on one the same way, and the

habit becomes difficult to break. Likewise, if one gives way to evil thoughts and lust on the sex matter, it becomes uncontrollable. The whole mind is poisoned and defiled, and one is put in bondage to his lust. All these are illustrations of the way sin works. And the use of tobacco works the same way. It grows upon a man until his will is enslaved. That, to me, is definite proof that the use of tobacco is a sin.

In Romans 6:12 we are commanded: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." To be controlled by the lusts and desires of the fleshly nature is a sin. Multiplied millions of people are enslaved and controlled by their tobacco habit.

Jesus said in John 8:34, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." If you have become enslaved by some habit, you are not enslaved by righteousness, but you are enslaved by sin.

Did you notice that the enslavement of habit is always in sinful matters and never in righteous matters? No one ever got in such a habit of praying that he could not stop praying. No one ever got in such a habit of being honest that it made a slave out of him. No one was ever in such a habit of loving God that he loved God too much. No one ever got in such a habit of attending church or winning souls or helping others that he was enslaved by it. What ever enslaves your mind, your will, your body so that you cannot control yourself and your desires, is evidently a sin.

The Bible does not mention tobacco. There was none of it in the Bible lands. It was not known when Christ lived here on earth and when the Bible was written. It came into use among the white people only when they got it from the Indians, after the discovery of America. So the Bible has no law against tobacco, but as Paul said in I Corinthians 6:12, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." We are under grace, not under law, but every Christian should say with Paul, "I will not be brought under the power of any" enslaving habit or drug or lust of the flesh. The enslaving power of tobacco is such that its use is a sin.

5. I believe the use of tobacco is a sin because that is the consensus of opinion among the most spiritual and useful Christians. The Holy Spirit seems to have led the best Christians to agree on this point. I realize that there are many saved people who love the Lord and who use tobacco. But usually they are not the most useful Christians, not the greatest soul winners, not the best Bible students. A few great soul winners are said to have used tobacco, but the greatest of them did not use it. Those who did use tobacco would doubtless have been far greater if they had quit tobacco. One of the greatest evangelists

(Continued on page 7)

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News Notes

Evangelist Billy Graham has announced that his evangelistic team will hold a week long crusade at Cambridge University in England. This is the team's first university mission. Graham will also appear throughout the winter on a television program in Britain.

The Rev. Edwin Porter, 84-year-old "Papa" of the religious best seller *Papa Was a Preacher*, turned down a large offer by a brewery to sponsor a TV series based on his book.

Missionary Tom Watson, Jr., director of The Evangelical Alliance Mission's proposed radio station in South Korea, recently purchased property. The 20,000 watt long-wave station will beam the Gospel behind the "bamboo curtain" in the various languages of those countries. Broadcasting equipment is being manufactured and assembled by International Radio of Elkhart, Ind., a Christian electronics company.

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Tobacco

(Continued from page 6)

of a few years ago who held revivals in America used tobacco. One day a mother brought her son to the evangelist and told how the little fellow had said, "Mother, Dr. — uses tobacco, so why can't I?" The evangelist quit and after that he won far more souls than before. Moody, Torrey Chapman and Sunday did not use tobacco.

I have talked to good Christians who use tobacco, useful men who love God; but almost invariably they admitted to me that their consciences told them it was wrong. My father was such a Christian, a devout and useful man, a soul winner. We believe that tobacco hastened his death; certainly it hindered his influence. Equally certain it is that others began the habit following his example. Yet he was so convinced that the habit was wrong that he punished his sons if he found them using tobacco and would have nearly died of shame if one of his daughters or his wife had smoked a cigarette. The practice of Christians does not always show forth the mind of God. But the consciences of spiritually minded, useful Christians is more likely to reflect the will of God. And on this matter of the use of tobacco, the consciences of enlightened, spiritually minded Christians is

almost unanimous. Most churches will not have a pastor who uses tobacco. Many, many churches, like my former pastorate in Dallas, Texas, will not have a Sunday School teacher who uses tobacco. The great Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, and many, many others, will not receive a member except on agreement that he does not use tobacco. The enlightened, spiritual consciences of millions of Christians say that the use of tobacco is wrong. They must have come to this conclusion by the leading of the Holy Spirit. It is hardly likely that most of the best Christians in the world are wrong on this subject.

In many, many cases the Holy Spirit deals so clearly with people that they give up tobacco as soon as they are saved without a word from any preacher or anybody else on that subject. I have known many who threw away their cigarettes as soon as they were converted. I have known many others who, when drawn very close to God in a revival, turned from the use of tobacco and confessed it as a sin though no one else had mentioned the matter. In such cases the Spirit of God must have spoken to their hearts. I say, I think the use of tobacco is a sin and that the great majority of spiritually minded Christians upon quitting tobacco have reported that they have had the leading of God's Spirit on this question.

Many, many Christians on quitting tobacco have reported that they felt nearer to the Lord than ever before, felt that the Holy Spirit was pleased with the decision they had made.

6. I believe that it is a sin to spend money for tobacco which ought to be spent for something more useful, as is so often the case. Monday of this week a man came to me to borrow a dollar. He said he was in actual want, had nothing to eat. The man professed faith in Christ in our services and I baptized him. I believe he is honest and really was hungry. I gave him the dollar which he promised to pay back Saturday night since he was to go to work on Wednesday. But the odor of tobacco on his breath was very, very strong. Without money to buy meals, yet he smoked. Surely

it is a sin to use anything that so enslaves a man, and surely it is a sin to use money for indulging the tobacco habit when the money is so badly needed for food.

A few months ago a family was brought to our attention as being in dire need. They could not buy milk for the babies, the father told me; yet he had been spending money gotten from some relief agency for tobacco. I believe that was a sinful misuse of money.

But those are not extreme cases. I know hundreds of people who say they cannot afford to tithe and yet they use tobacco. They cannot help the Red Cross and yet they buy tobacco. They have no money for missions, none for religious literature, and yet they have tobacco. The average church member in America who uses tobacco spends more money on that than he does on all the work of Christ. Millions and millions of dollars are burned up in cigarettes by people who claim to be Christians, and yet there are millions of heathen who have never heard the gospel because no missionary was ever sent! Money used for tobacco does no good, and it usually does positive harm. If men must give account for every idle word, then surely they must give an account of every misspent dollar. The use of money by a laborer to buy a pack of cigarettes every day is evidently the same kind of sin as the use of money by millionaires to waste on race horses and yachts and champagne suppers. Jesus on this matter commanded us to "make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness" (Luke 16:9); that is, to lay up treasure in Heaven by the way we use money. No man does that with the money that is spent for tobacco.

7. I believe it is a sin to use tobacco because of doubt in your heart when you use it. The man who asked me if it was sin evidently had some doubt, at least, whether it was pleasing to God for a child of God to use tobacco.

If there is a doubt in your heart, then it would certainly be a sin for you to use tobacco, for the Scripture says, "And he that doubteth is damned [held guilty of sin] if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). If you cannot use tobacco in the full faith that it honors Christ, then you ought not to use tobacco. If you do use it without that faith, you sin. Is there a doubt in your heart as to whether the use of tobacco would please Christ? Is there a doubt in your mind whether or not tobacco defiles the body or enslaves the will? Do you feel without doubt that Jesus would use tobacco if He were here? Do you doubt whether you should use money for it? Do you doubt about whether it will hurt your influence? If you use tobacco, doubting whether it pleases Christ, then it is a sin, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Very prayerfully I have given you Bible evidence on this question: Is it a sin to use tobacco? I believe that it is. Most of the spiritually minded people of the world agree that it is. The Scripture seems clearly to teach so. I urge you to sum up those arguments and weigh them carefully. (1) It is a sin for Christians to do what Jesus would not do since He is our example, and surely Jesus would not use tobacco. (2) It is a sin to use tobacco because it defiles the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit. (3) It is a sin to use tobacco because it hinders a Christian's influence. (4) The use of tobacco is a sin because it enslaves the will and puts one in a yoke of bondage to the lust of the flesh. (5) The use of tobacco is a sin because the Holy Spirit has made that the consensus of opinion among the most spiritual and useful Christians. (6) It is a sin to spend money for tobacco which ought to be spent for something more useful as is so often the case. (7) It is a sin to use tobacco if we doubt whether it is right.

Read the Scriptures mentioned in this article. Then go to the secret place of prayer and lay the whole thing out before God. Ask Him for His guidance. If you really surrender your will to Him, really long to do what will please Him, and put His will first,

then you will know without a doubt. Do not sin against Christ, against weak Christians and grieve the Holy Spirit. Ask God to help you, and lay that habit on the altar today.

If God uses these Scriptures and the reasons mentioned here to convince you of the sin of using tobacco, and then if He helps you to quit it, will you kindly write and tell me so? It will comfort my heart and I will earnestly pray for you.

How to Quit Tobacco

If you are a Christian and use tobacco, you ought to quit. Possibly you want to quit. If you want to quit badly enough, then you can. God will help you. In I Corinthians 10:13 we are told:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

If you want to quit tobacco, do the following:

1. Confess that the use of tobacco is a sin. It is. Using tobacco defiles your body, which is the temple of the Holy Spirit of God which dwells within you (I Cor. 3:16, 17; I Cor. 6:19, 20). You know that is a sin. Using tobacco sets a bad example before others. You do not want your girl, your mother to smoke cigarettes; probably you do not even want your boys to. What is wrong for them is wrong for you and is sin. Admit it, confess it to God. Using tobacco will cause young Christians to stumble; it will hinder your influence over lost people; it will grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus is our Example, and you do not believe that He would use tobacco if He were here today. The only way to deal successfully with the tobacco habit is to admit that that habit is wicked, that it is a sin against yourself and others and against God. Confess to yourself, then confess to God and to your family and others who know you use tobacco, that it is wrong, a sin, and that you ought to quit it. Remember that "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13). Uncover that filthy habit today before God, confess that it is a sin! And we are promised that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9). We are commanded, "Confess your faults one to another, pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:16). When you confess that the use of tobacco is a sin, you judge your sin, put yourself on the side of God and enlist His aid in your fight. If you do not admit it is a sin, you will not quit tobacco.

2. Treat the habit as a sin. Quit it; quit it now; quit it forever! People do not quit stealing by tapering off. A fallen woman does not quit her wicked, hellish trade slowly, a little at a time. No, if to use twenty cigarettes a day is a sin, then to use one cigarette a day is a sin. Do not taper off, but quit it now. Treat the habit as a sin if you want God to help you. It is a deceiving, enslaving habit. To use one cigarette is to surrender to Satan on that matter and to dull your own conscience and to break down your own will power. Don't do it! Some men try to quit tobacco like the boy who cut his dog's tail off one inch at a time so it would not hurt! Brother, it doesn't work. Quit it all at once, and forever, as a wicked sin that displeases God, hurts yourself, hinders Christian joy and service; a sin to be avoided, confessed and forsaken.

That would mean that you should tell your companions and friends frankly that you intend to quit, that you know you ought not to use tobacco. Do not linger around where people smoke. Do not put yourself in temptation. Treat the matter as a sin, and you can break the habit with God's help.

3. The next thing to do is to pray. Pray hard; pray in earnest; pray fervently. If there is anything between you and God, ask Him to remove it. Ask Him to

take your body which belongs to Him and to consecrate it to His own service. A Christian ought to be "a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (II Tim. 2:21).

Remember that God has promised a way of escape. He has helped millions to quit every kind (Continued on page 8)



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Tobacco

(Continued from page 7)

of sin, including the use of tobacco. God is pleased to give you grace for every trial. He plainly promised, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9).

Remember that the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, was tempted in every point as we are. "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psa. 103:14). Then do not be downcast; do not be discouraged. Call boldly and cry unceasingly to God to help you and He will.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched

with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."—Heb. 4:14-16.

4. The use of tobacco is a habit. There are certain little steps in the habit that have to do with your hands, your pocket, your mouth. All right, build a substitute for the habit. Everytime you want a cigarette, reach in your pocket for a piece of gum, take off the wrapper, put it in your mouth, and chew it a little bit. Thus everytime the prompting of habit tempts you to reach for a cigarette and makes you think you want a cigarette, get the

chewing gum instead. Other people use very small hard candies and reach in their pocket for one bit of candy and put it in the mouth everytime there is a temptation to smoke or chew. Or you might find it helpful to use candied orange peel or candied ginger instead. Thus you substitute other motions for the habit of smoking, and occupy your mouth and your thoughts and your taste with something else. Fortunately, neither chewing gum nor candy is habit-forming and neither can be of harm.

Literally thousands of people have quit tobacco, and you can do it, too. Your problem is mainly in your own mind.

Now go over the four points again. If you want to quit tobacco, do the following:

Confess that the use of tobacco is a sin.

Treat the habit as a sin. Quit it; quit it now; quit it forever.

Pray earnestly for God's help. Pray regularly about it. Substitute other things for the habit.

Remember that all the reforming in the world does not make a Christian. You can give up the use of tobacco and live a clean, moral life outwardly, and still go to Hell. Remember that joining a church or being baptized or quitting outward sins never yet made a Christian. What you need is to be born again, to have a new heart. And the Lord Jesus Christ died for your sins and is willing to forgive you and save you. If you have not trusted Him, will you give Him your heart today? Don't try to clean up outside without a new heart inside. "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (I Sam. 16:7). Remember that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in

him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). If you will trust Him today as your Saviour, trust Him to change your heart and forgive your sins, how glad I would be to hear it! Write to Evangelist John R. Rice, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

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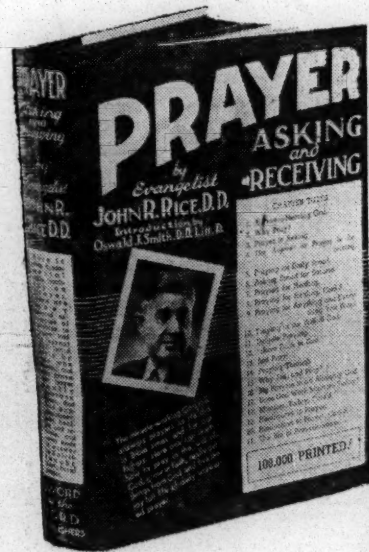
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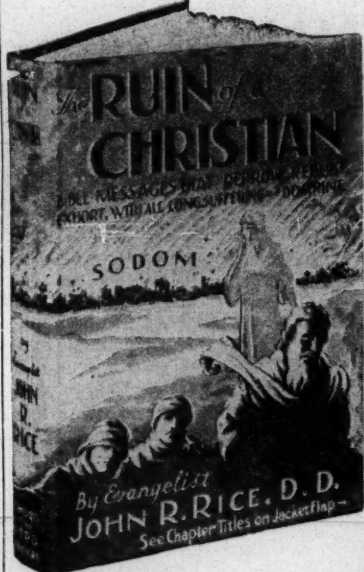
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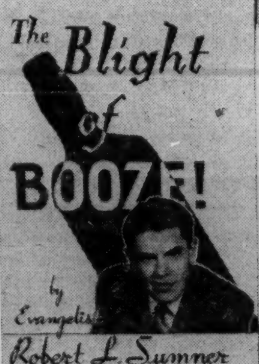
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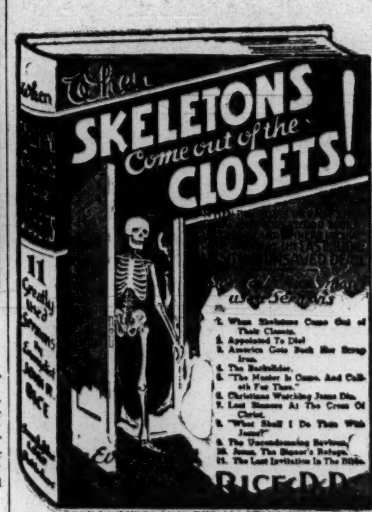
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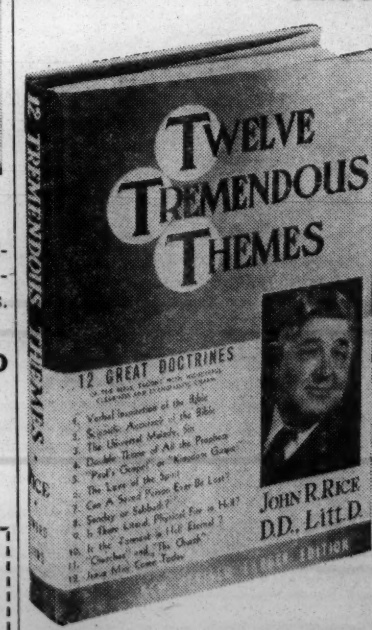
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